

TOWN OF

KENSINGTON

SEPTEMBER
2002
JOURNAL

September 30, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting Agenda

Mary O'Donnell to receive Oath of Office for Ethics Commission
Request for variance at 3507 Farragut Avenue
Presentation from George Myers on property at 10111 Frederick Avenue
Request from *The Children in the Shoe, Inc.*
Tree Lighting Committee Report
Introduction of Public Right of Way Ordinance
Introduction of Storm Water Management Ordinance

Start the academic year off with a bang and come to this month's Town Meeting on Monday, September 30 at Town Hall. Refreshments will be available at 7 and the Town Meeting will begin at 7:30. Come at 7 and chat with your Kensington neighbors before we all sit down to a productive meeting!
If you'd like to bake something or otherwise help, please call Jenny Smith at 301-946-3804. Thanks.

Meeting Schedule

September 30, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting
October 7, 7:00 p.m. Work Session; October 28, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting
November 4, 7:00 p.m. Work Session; November 18, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting
December 16, 7:00 p.m. Work Session

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;
E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, October 14th and there will not be a trash pick up. Trash pick up will be on Tuesday, October 15th.

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market opens at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday at the Kensington Train Station.

Please, NO early shoppers.

Clothing Collection

The Town is collecting clean clothes and coats to donate to the Will of God Mission Church. Please drop off your clean unwanted clothes and coats in bags on the 15th of each month by 6:00 p.m. in front of the Town Hall.

Upcoming Events

9th Annual Kensington 8k Race, September 21st

Reminders

Please remove all standing water around your yard to prevent mosquito breeding sources.

Please keep our parks and your neighbors' yard clean by properly cleaning up and disposing of your pet's excrement.

Mixed paper recycling items must be placed in a paper bag curbside by 7 a.m. each Wednesday.

Political signs must be on private property and not on the Town right of way or they will be removed.

All refuse receptacles must have tight fitting lids. Also, please line them with plastic bags. If possible please place refuse receptacles curbside. This will expedite a more efficient trash pick up.

LABOR DAY PARADE A GREAT SUCCESS

Thanks to all of you who gave so generously of your time and talents to help make this year's 35th Annual Kensington Labor Day Parade such a big success! Jenny Smith would especially like to thank Louise, Shirley and Susan, as well as Jaime and the Town crew, for all their kind support and help. She would also like to thank all the parade volunteers, including the line-up and barricade volunteers and all the other people who got up early to put butcher paper on tables, to assist our emcee, to provide tents to cover the food, to serve lunch to the parade participants and volunteers, and to perform the multitude of other tasks that made the parade happen. The Labor Day Parade simply could not happen without the cheerful participation of all these people. Thanks so much!

Congratulations to The Black Belt Martial Arts Center who won the float competition with a beautiful patriotic entry.

For Your Information

County Opens Permanent Child Safety Seat Inspection Station

The new child safety seat inspection center is located at the County's Fire and Rescue Services' Community Services Building, 14111 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. The Center will be open by appointment from 7 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday of each month. Appointments may be made by calling the County's Division of Consumer Affairs at 240-777-3636.

Hazardous Waste Collection Information

Collection Date:

October 6th (tentative date, please confirm) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station

For a complete list of acceptable materials and for collection dates for the remainder of 2002 call (240) 777-6400 or access their website www.MCRecycles.org

Building Permits

Install awning at 10431 Metropolitan Avenue

Install shed at 10520 Wheatley Street

Install sign at 10410 N. Kensington Parkway

Reconstruct canopy at 10550 Connecticut Avenue

Addition at 10207 Frederick Avenue

Install canopy at 3745 University Boulevard

e-Announcements

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's website (www.tok.org)

Message from the Mayor's Desk

Over the summer months we have watched the Metropolitan Avenue project progress. I believe our whole Town is looking forward to the completion of another revitalization project to enhance our commercial district. The planning of this project took many years and much volunteer time from citizens and commercial owners working with our Town government to approve and implement. I remind each of you that you had a part to play in the planning and the final outcome of this project. The State Highway Administration presented plans and asked for comments at each Town meeting or hearing that was held for the project. You can be proud of the eventual outcome because you were a part of the team that made it happen.

The Howard Avenue Revitalization Phase III project has begun. You will hear more over the next few months as we progress. This committee is active and looking forward to the final phase of this project.

During the last month I have attended many meetings and events as President of the Maryland Municipal League. The majority of these meetings are held in the evenings and on weekends throughout the State of Maryland. My presidency provides me the opportunity to meet with other Town, County and State elected officials. This networking is beneficial not only to the League but to our Town as well.

Everyone, including residents living on a street that has restricted signage, such as *Do Not Enter*, must comply with those signs. As Mayor, I have been asked by citizens to enforce the law and have requested police enforcement. Please remember that restrictions were originally requested by residents on those streets.

Feel free to call or visit me at the Town office. I appreciate your input.

On Behalf of the Whole Town the Mayor and Council
Thank our Great Volunteers.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Pachner for providing refreshments for the August Work Session.

Thanks to Molly Deale for all her work cleaning up and weeding St. Paul Park and to all her volunteers: Martha, Val, and Emily Deale; Lisa, Alisdair, and Keira Sherper; Jenny, Doug, Parker, Emerson and Lily Smith; Arlene Lukacs; Celine-Shashi Pachner; Leslie Olson, and Wendy, Kip, Benjamin and Caroline Loulfit.

Thanks to Ethel and Walter Koehler for the weeding they did in the play area of St. Paul Park.

Thanks to Wat Stewart for organizing a great summer Concert Series in Howard Avenue Park.

Thanks to Andrea Gill and Andie Murtha for all their hard work on the Artisans Fair.

Once again the weather was good to us and our 35th Annual Labor Day Parade was a great success! We thank Jenny Smith for her efforts in providing a well organized great event. We also thank all the Town volunteers who worked over several days to set up the grandstand and organize the line up. A good time was had by our Town.

The Town Picnic in August did not have as many citizens in attendance as we would like to have seen but those who were there had a good time. We thank the co-chairmen of this committee Janine Myers and Andie Murtha and also thank Kim Lehman who helped them. All agreed the ice cream was “great” and a big hit with folks of all ages.

Council Member Carr's Report

I am very pleased to report that the State Highway Administration responded favorably to my letter requesting changes to the signal at Connecticut and Knowles. SHA will be adding a simultaneous left turn arrow for westbound Knowles traffic to reduce hesitation at the intersection. SHA will also change the westbound pedestrian crossing signal to synchronize with the eastbound Knowles traffic phase. Many thanks to former Council Member Chris Bruch who contacted SHA last year. Forgive the football analogy, but Chris got us to the 5-yard line so that I could push into the end zone! Thanks also to our residents who kept this on the front burner. Please let me know how these changes are working.

This month I met with several residents to discuss traffic and safety issues on Connecticut Avenue, Calvert Place, east Washington Street and Kensington Parkway. I also met with a local business owner to discuss the impacts of the proposed Safeway development. I also met with the Mayor and with a Council Member from Chevy Chase View to discuss county, state and federal funding sources for Connecticut Avenue improvements.

The Traffic Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, September 25th at the Armory. We are still seeking representatives for the following streets: Fawcett Street, Prospect Street, Baltimore Street west, and Montgomery Ave.

As always, please e-mail me or call me any time you have an idea, question or concern. Phone: 946-4956. E-mail: acarr@aol.com

Council Member Pfautz's Report

Budget and Finance

At its July meeting, the Mayor and Council approved funding for an engineering study in preparation for installation of a sidewalk on the east side of Kensington Parkway from Washington Street to the Park. At the August meeting, the engineering plans were reviewed but significantly modified. Because Kensington Parkway was scheduled for paving the following week, a decision was made to postpone any work on Kensington Parkway (including sidewalk installation and paving) until after a traffic study is completed so that we are confident that Town funds are used most effectively in building a safe sidewalk with best results for both safety and aesthetics of Town.

At its August meeting, the Mayor and Council reviewed and approved a proposal from The Traffic Group (who had presented at the July meeting) to begin a preliminary traffic study in Town. After further discussion, it was decided to not accept the initial proposal but to continue negotiations with The Traffic Group, asking them to incorporate work already done by the Town's Traffic Committee, including the traffic "hot spot list," and the results of the two-week study done by Town volunteers at three intersections in Town last summer. The Traffic Group subsequently sent another proposal for a full Town traffic study, as recommended by the Town Traffic Committee, at a cost of \$35,000. We have asked the Traffic Committee Chair to solicit other bids and to negotiate further with

the Traffic Group to see if other savings could be incorporated into their bid. (As you may recall, the Town's FY 2002-2003 budget includes a \$20,000 line item for traffic calming.)

Charter Review

Many thanks to Shirley Watson and Susan Engels for all their hard work in getting our Charter into electronic format so that it is now linked to the Town website!

The Charter Review Committee has one recommended Charter amendment pending: to allow legal aliens to vote in Town elections. I am scheduling a Committee meeting sometime in September to go over this recommendation with our new member, John Lossing, and to discuss any other proposals before we introduce recommended amendments at the October meeting.

Maryland Municipal League Legislative Priorities

As a member of the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee I meet with municipal colleagues throughout the state to develop the League's legislative priorities and monitor bills during legislative session for their impact on municipalities (particularly our budgets). At our last meeting, the Committee approved recommended priorities for next legislative session. Political reality being the framework for our deliberations this year. With a new Governor, many new legislators and a state budget facing a significant deficit, it is unlikely that any new funding bills will be approved this year. Therefore, the Legislative Committee approved a legislative program this year that will focus on three broad themes (1) state house awareness - as many of our new legislators may not have come from municipal government, (2) public safety with priority on passage of a bill that will allow local governments to use speed radar cameras, and (3) protecting municipal funding at current levels.

Council Member Scharman's Report

Status of Park Projects and Grants - The Town has engaged an engineering firm to develop the construction and bid documents for St. Paul Park Phase II renovations using our Program Open Space (POS) grant funds. I have had several conversations with the engineer and met with citizens at the park to review and solicit comments on the planned improvements. The proposed work includes resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of the walking path, installation of a water fountain and new backstop, re-grading of the park to improve drainage, and pavement of the parking strip and replacement of the decaying bollards. We have received the POS reimbursement totaling \$60,236 for the Phase I work (playground equipment) at St. Paul Park, Reinhardt Park, and Kensington Parkwood Elementary School.

Thanks to the efforts of the town staff, crew, and Mr. and Mrs. Koehler, the Clum Kennedy patio work is complete. The seating area is in a quiet area of the park; please visit it to see what a pleasant and peaceful area it is. This project is 100% reimbursable through a dedicated fund, Community Parks and Playgrounds (CPP), developed by Maryland's General Assembly.

We submitted a second application through CPP for renovation of Kensington Cabin but this project was not funded in the second round of project reviews. The Kensington Cabin Committee will meet and I will work with them to examine possibilities for funding this renovation.

I spoke with Steve Lukaczer of HOC to discuss his plans for the basketball area and field at that facility. Although this is not a town property, the Town continues to work with HOC regarding the site to minimize adverse impacts and maximize beneficial aspects regarding the uses. It is the only outdoor recreational space available to Town residents on the West side of town.

Tree Board - The Tree Board met to discuss a plan developed by residents to plant larger shade trees on Metropolitan Avenue as part of the SHA revitalization of that street. We also discussed tree maintenance needs such as watering and fertilizing, the town tree inventory, the development of a planting plan, and a possible area for growing our own saplings. The Board continues to work on the planting and maintenance plans this fall.

Town Website - I prepared a draft of possible changes or additions to the town website as a start for the Council to develop a document for website modifications. I will be working with Councilmember Carr to compile Council and citizen suggestions on the website.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Ordinance Introduction - Use of the Public Rights of Way

At the September Town Meeting, the Council will introduce an ordinance to include "use of the public right of way" in Chapter 3 of the Town Code. The ordinance will authorize the Town to require a permit and permit fee from any utility who excavates, constructs or performs any maintenance or other work in the Town right-of-way.

Ordinance Introduction – Storm Water Management

At the September Town Meeting, the Council will introduce an ordinance to repeal Article 2 Section 8-201 – Section 8-227 and adopt Montgomery County Storm Water Ordinance.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

August 12, 2002

The Work Session commenced at 7:04 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Public Works Director Joel, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

Dr. Robert Ouellette, Professor of TMAN 671, at University of Maryland University College presented information on a graduate class he teaches in technology and innovation management in which students develop a strategic plan for a

corporation/government entity/etc. He proposed that this fall's class work with the Town on a strategic plan for commercial development. The Council agreed to move forward and have the class work with the commercial revitalization steering committee in development of a recommended plan for commercial development in Town.

Matthew O'Malley presented suggestions for the redesign and augmented information on the Town web site. The Council discussed a web site redesign with Matthew O'Malley and Jonathan Meyers and concurred to compile a list of requirements and suggestions for the web site. Ideas will also be solicited from viewers of the web site and will be discussed at the next work session. The Council concurred to remove the counter from the web site.

Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton will investigate residents concerns of excessive parking on Frederick Avenue and Frederick Place.

The project list was reviewed and updated. Armory windows were completed and removed from the project list.

A Council Member from Chevy Chase View was present and discussed with the Council their shared concerns over traffic on Connecticut Avenue and a proposed sidewalk on the west side of Connecticut Avenue. The Council concurred not to commit to a sidewalk but to continue to pursue funding sources such as a state designated neighborhood status which would make the Town eligible for more funding for a sidewalk and other types of improvements.

The Council discussed the proposal from The Traffic Group and concurred to move forward with the initial part of the study. Subsequently, the Council decided to discuss project parameters with The Traffic Group further before committing to begin a study.

The Council discussed storm water management and will have the Town attorney draft a resolution to adopt the County's storm water management.

Council Member Pfautz will follow up with the Town attorney regarding the possibility of setting some municipal fines as property tax assessments.

The pros/cons of outsourcing trash pickup and removal will be addressed in November/December when planning for next year's budget begins.

Installation of a new sidewalk on Kensington Parkway from Washington Street to Kensington Cabin Park on the east side of the street was discussed. The Mayor and Council discussed ways to design a safer sidewalk which would include a grass area between the sidewalk and road. Subsequently, the Mayor, in consultation with Council Members Pfautz and Cowan, decided to defer sidewalk installation and street paving on Kensington Parkway pending an analysis of traffic impact.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed.

The Council supported Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton's suggestion to plant saplings on the small green space available on North Kensington Parkway. The saplings would be grown for future planting in Town parks and green spaces.

The monthly correspondence was reviewed.

The Mayor and Council discussed the request from The Children in the Shoe for use and access to St. Paul Park. The Council concurred to discuss this with the attorney before considering this request.

Andie Murtha presented a proposal for changes to the Metropolitan Avenue streetscaping currently being done by the State Highway Administration. A letter will be sent to SHA transmitting the proposal to Metropolitan streetscaping which includes more trees, changing the species of trees to London Plane and planting trees between the curb and sidewalk for their review and consideration.

A letter and petition, from David Nellis, received regarding a speed bump request for Calvert Street at the stop sign was discussed and given to the traffic committee for further review. A letter, from Andie Murtha, received regarding speed and volume of cars on Washington Street, Calvert Street and Hadley Place was also given to the traffic committee for further review.

Council Actions

Council Member Cowan moved to adopt the Personnel Policy, Version 1, August 12, 2002 and the drug policy with a change to add page numbers on the drug policy and add direct deposit as an employee benefit to the personnel policy. Council Member Scharman seconded it and it passed unanimously with the Mayor concurring. A future amendment will be approved listing the credit union as a benefit once the credit union accepts us as a member.

Council Member Cowan moved to approve draft two of the cellular ordinance. Council Member Pfautz seconded it and it passed with the Mayor concurring. Council Member Carr excused himself from the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes of the July 1 Work Session as circulated with a correction in paragraph 8 from Work to Works. It was seconded by Council Member Scharman and passed unanimously.

Work Session of Mayor & Council

September 9, 2002

The Work Session commenced at 7:05 p.m., Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz and Scharman, Public Works Director Joel, Code Enforcement Officer Hamilton, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present and the following issues were addressed:

The Mayor and Council discussed and updated items on the project list. Two items were removed from the list because SHA has already addressed both: the left turn arrow at Connecticut/Knowles Avenues and the timing of the pedestrian light at Connecticut Avenue and Washington Street. One item was added to the project list: creation of street width requirements for parking on both sides of the street in residential zones.

The Mayor and Council discussed the traffic study proposal from the Traffic Group and the proposed sidewalk on the east side of Kensington Parkway from Washington Street to Kensington Cabin Park. The Mayor and Council agreed to the following course of action: schedule Park and Planning to come to the Oct. 28th meeting to discuss overlay zoning and/or a new sector plan; schedule another meeting with SHA after communicating with the County Executive, and contact the engineer to determine the feasibility, from Kent Street south to Kensington Cabin, of installing a sidewalk (pursuant to County width requirements) along the east side of Kensington Parkway, with a planting strip buffer between the street and sidewalk, while leaving room for a bike path and street parking on the Parkway. Council Member Cowan and Carr will meet with the engineer at the site.

The code enforcement action list was reviewed.

The Mayor and Council agreed to allow a change in text of a non-compliant sign at 3750 W. University Blvd. as long as the property owner is in full compliance with the Town's sign ordinance by August 2003.

The Mayor and Council supported Kensington Parkwood's request to use the armory in April for a silent auction fundraiser.

The Council supported the Mayor's Proclamation proclaiming September 16th as Freedom's Answer Day to encourage all citizens to vote on Election Day.

The minutes from the August 12, 2002 work session were reviewed and corrected.

The meetings for November/December were scheduled as follows: Work Session on November 4th, Town Meeting on November 18th, and because of the holidays there will be a Work Session only in December on the 16th.

Council Actions

Council Member Cowan moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment to the Town's Ethics Commission of Mary O'Donnell for a 1-year term. It was seconded by Council Member Pfautz and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Dear Neighbors and Residents of Kensington,

About 2 months ago the Old Town Kensington Merchants Association received a letter from the Montgomery County Volunteer and Community Service Center requesting our help in their annual Holiday Basket Project. This project provides food and gifts to people in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The service center was looking for an agency or association to take care of the 30+ families living in the 20895 zip code area. In the past, our zip code has been provided for by other agencies in other zip codes or the families did without.

The Old Town Kensington Merchants Association in an effort to repay the County for the revitalization of Old Town Kensington and in the spirit of community service has elected to become the Coordinating Agency for our zip code and the 20896 (Garrett Park) zip code. The Wheaton-Kensington Chamber of Commerce will participate as co-sponsor. This means we will be trying to collect enough food to fill baskets for the referred families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as presents for children 18 and under at Christmas. We are asking for help from the residents of Kensington. We will be collecting non-perishable food items in the shops along Antique Row in November and December. A list of the food items recommended by the County and the dates for collecting them will be published in the next Town Newsletter. Mr. Duggin of American Self Storage has generously donated storage space for everything we collect.

There are other ways in which you and your family can help. We will be purchasing the meat (or gift certificates for the meat) to go into the baskets and will need money to do so. Monetary contributions can be made at any of the shops or at the All First Bank. Checks should be made out to "Holiday Basket Project". Your family may sponsor a needy family and supply a complete basket or gifts for the members of the family. We will match your family with a family in need. You may contribute a new, unwrapped gift for a child. We will have a list of the children and their gift wishes by November 15th. You can also volunteer to help fill the baskets and/or deliver them to the designated pick-up or delivery site. We have been told that some families prefer to pick up their baskets while others like the expectation of having them delivered the evening before the holiday.

If we should receive more donations than we need, these will go into the Volunteer Center bank and be disbursed around the County as needed.

Please don't forget, this is an opportunity to help those in our own community.

If you need any more information or would like to volunteer to help, please call Sally Shaffer at 301-933-3750 from 11 to 5, Monday through Saturday.

Sincerely,

Sally Shaffer, Project Coordinator
Old Town Kensington Merchants Assoc.

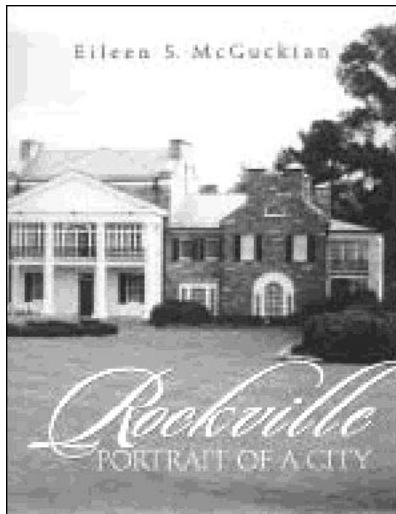
KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS FALL 2002



Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 PM:

SAVE OUR SEMINARY! Hear and see the story of a unique historic site nearby—the National Park Seminary Historic District in the Forest Glen section of Silver Spring. An eclectic collection of more than two dozen buildings in various styles, its history will be told by Bonnie Rosenthal, Executive Director of Save Our Seminary, the local organization dedicated to preserving the site, communicating its history, and guiding its future. Bonnie will also tell of SOS preservation efforts and explain planning

for the future use of the site. Learn more at www.saveourseminary.org.



Tuesday, October 8th at 7:30 PM:

Eileen McGuckian of Peerless Rockville will speak about her new book “Rockville, Portrait of a City”. In her book, Eileen paints a vibrant portrait of the rural crossroads that was destined to become a thriving American community. She covers the complete history from wayfaring American Indians to colonial settlers, to slaves who cleared fields and planted tobacco to Confederate cavalry who kicked up dust on Rockville Pike to modern biotech mecca.

Tuesday, November 12th at 7:30 PM: Paul Edlund will speak about the history of our neighboring town Garrett Park. Paul has authored two publications about Garrett Park and is a former Mayor and Councilman.

All programs are held at Kensington town hall, 3710 Mitchell Street. Guests are welcome! Call 301 946-4956 for more information.

Watch for upcoming information about our Spring 2003 programs!